

## Wilsonism---Its Meaning

EXTRACT FROM AN EDITORIAL IN THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD.

REPUBLICAN organs and orators are telling us that the country has had enough of Wilsonism. The duty of the hour is to save the American people from a continuance of Wilsonism. To that end a Republican president must be elected. Only thus can a radical change of policy be effected. Down with Wilsonism!

The cry has a plausible sound. But the term is pregnant with undefined meaning. Those who seek to rally the country against Wilsonism do not tell the country what Wilsonism is. They impart to the word, by the context of their partisan appeals, a vague and terrifying significance. Upon the ears of the unthinking it falls with an import of menace to the national welfare and assault upon the sacred rights of the individual citizen.

What is Wilsonism?

It was Wilsonism that promised justly to revise a tariff enacted for the enrichment of entrenched special interest—a tariff that a Republican president denounced as iniquitous even while he was signing it—and did it.

Wilsonism destroyed a discredited banking system under which panics were artificially created for the benefit of special interest, and replaced it with a system which Wall Street cannot manipulate for the purpose of undermining public credit.

It was Wilsonism that devised and submitted to the states a system of taxation which distributed the burden not in proportion to the power of wealth and influence to dodge it, as gauged by income, the only practical measure of just taxable capacity.

Wilsonism gave to the worker the Anti-Injunction law, the eight-hour day, the act for the safety of railway employees, the Workmen's Compensation act and the Seaman's law.

Wilsonism gave to the farmer the Good Roads act, the Rural Credits act, the Warehouse act, the Grain-Grades act, the act to prevent gambling in farm products and the Agricultural Extension act.

Wilsonism submitted to the states the constitutional amendment which enables the voters to select their United States senators; abolishing bossism in the house of representatives, and passed the Clayton act to curb the power of the Trusts.

Wilsonism kept the United States out of the World War until it became clearly apparent that the issue drawn was between barbarism and civilization, and that without our help civilization must perish. Wilsonism kept us out of war until the conscience of the nation was aroused and the people were ready for the sacrifice.

It was Wilsonism that gave concrete expression to the war. Wilsonism that framed in words the thought in every patriot's heart; Wilsonism that supplied the moral stamina which keyed America up to the point of tremendous and unparalleled achievement; Wilsonism that aroused the weary, staggering world to fresh effort, lifted Europe from the abyss of dismay and despair, and spurred democracy on to victory.

It was Wilsonism that prevented America from resorting to the futile expedient of raising a volunteer army officered by incompetent politicians, and compelled reluctant traders and tricksters to adopt principles of fairness and efficiency through the Selective service act. It was Wilsonism that built 32 encampments, each to house 40,000 men, in 90 days. Wilsonism raised, in a peace-loving country 5,000,000 armed men, and transported 2,000,000 of them across the ocean in an incredibly brief period to roll back the German hordes.

Wilsonism raised \$37,000,000,000 for the prosecution of the war, and expended \$27,000,000,000 of it (the remainder being lent to the Allies) with such scrupulous honesty that after devoting \$2,000,000 of public money to futile investigation partisan snooping committees were unable to unearth a single instance of corruption or graft. Oh, yes, there was waste. When lives were worth more than money, when victory was dependent on haste, when science moved faster than the almost superhuman speed of production, and forced new inventions into obsolescence, when speed was at an incredible premium, there was waste. But it ill becomes the party which conducted the Spanish-American war to mention it. If there had been no waste there would have been no victory. Wilsonism is human, not divine.

Wilsonism—selfish, arrogant, partisan Wilsonism, which robbed the Republican party of the glory of the war—placed Gen. John J. Pershing, a Republican, the son-in-law of Senator Warren, a Republican enemy of the administration, in command of the American expeditionary forces. Wilsonism placed Admiral Sims, a life-long Republican, in high command of naval operations in the danger zone. Wilsonism put Howard E. Coffin, Republican, in charge of aircraft production; E. R. Stettinius, Republican, in the war department in charge of supplies; Major General Goethals, Republican, in charge of shipbuilding; Maj. Gen. E. H. Crowder, Republican, in charge of the draft. Wilsonism made a Republican, Gen. Peyton C. March, chief of staff of the United States army. Wilsonism turned control of the Emergency Fleet corporation over to Charles M. Schwab and Charles Piez, Republicans. H. P. Davison, Republican, headed the Red Cross; Frank A. Vanderlip, Republican, was placed in charge of the war savings stamp campaign; Harry A. Garfield, Republican and son of a Republican president, was made fuel administrator; Herbert Hoover, Republican, was appointed food administrator. Of eight members of the war trade board Wilsonism appointed five Republicans, and it gave five out of eight places in the Council of National Defense to Republicans. Republicans seem to have had a very fair share of the places of honor, trust and responsibility in the military and civil tasks incident to the prosecution of the war, but they did not control the senate or the house.

Wilsonism undermined German morale. The Wilson notes, both prior to and following our entrance into the war—the butts of unthinking partisan scorn, and derision at home—sapped the foundations of German militarism, until finally the whole edifice crumbled into dust. The German army beaten to earth by the sledgehammer blows of America and her associates in the field, looked homeward for moral and material support and found that the forces upon which it relied had caved in. Wilsonism had destroyed German faith that might makes right.

Wilsonism carried to Paris a new creed of international faith embodying the highest aspirations of the best elements of the American people, without distinction of party—a program approved, before it was made an issue of politics, by many leaders who are now, for selfish reasons masked in a cloak of pseudo-patriotism, its bitterest enemies. Wilsonism, single-handed, but backed by the world's conscience, crammed this creed down the throats of unwilling European statesmen who had hoped to set up on the smoking ruins another edifice based on a concert of power, secret diplomacy, and military supremacy.

Wilsonism was handicapped in its efforts to achieve an enduring peace rather than a temporary maskshift by secret plotting and open reactionary defiance at home. Even while the president was struggling to commit European chancelleries to the embodiment of the League of Nations in the peace treaty, the treaty wreckers in the senate strengthened the hand of the lustful imperialism abroad by serving formal notice that the senate would vote down ratification. Notwithstanding this backfire, Wilsonism emerged triumphant from the Paris conference. For the time being, the power of enlightened public opinion was victorious. The suffering peoples of Europe knew what they wanted; their rulers were afraid to deny it to them.

Wilsonism, having successfully prosecuted a war which ended in a blaze of glory for American arms, thus successfully framed a peace which kept its solemn pledge to the people that the blood of American soldiers shed on the battlefields of France should not be spilled in vain. Down with Wilsonism and up with Republicanism, which shamelessly proposes the repudiation of the nation's contract with the widow and the orphan, the halt, the lame, and the blind!

Wilsonism has sought to lead this country along the paths of justice and equity to moral heights which make the dizzy, the greedy, the selfish and the unscrupulous, whose material interests and illicit ambitions have suffered in the progress of the march. By tireless energy, forced on by an indomitable will, Wilsonism achieved a progressive program of domestic advancement in six years that outstrips the legislative record of any preceding generation. Unable to thwart it at home, the sinister forces that hanker for a return to the good old days of invisible government found a more promising field for their subterranean operations in the peace program of Wilsonism, and have thus far succeeded, at the

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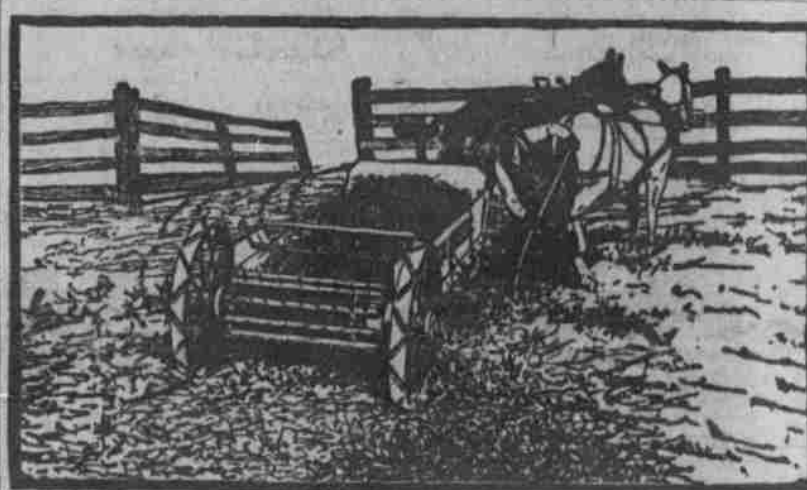
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